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**HOUSE MEMORIAL 7**

**45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

**INTRODUCED BY**

**Thomas C. Taylor**

**A MEMORIAL**

**PROCLAIMING MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2002, TO BE "DISABILITY  
AWARENESS DAY IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES" AND DECLARING  
LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS THAT SERVE PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES LIVING IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.**

**WHEREAS, over nineteen percent of the New Mexico  
population is comprised of persons with disabilities,  
including young and middle-aged people, seniors, disabled  
veterans, paralyzed veterans, parents, husbands, wives,  
children and people from all races and ethnic backgrounds; and**

**WHEREAS, people with disabilities prefer to live in their  
own homes and communities so as to be near friends and  
relatives, to work, to go to church and to enjoy recreational  
and social stimulation from libraries, schools, theaters,  
community centers, museums, skiing, fishing, boating and other**

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1 wonderful attractions in New Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, most people with disabilities prefer community  
3 living, but may need personal care services, accessibility of  
4 the built environment, home modifications, healthy housing,  
5 transportation, adequate health insurance and health care and  
6 assistive technology to do so; and

7 WHEREAS, President Bush has promoted employment and  
8 community living through his "freedom initiatives" and  
9 Executive Order 13217 in which the president outlines the  
10 direction the country should take toward community-based  
11 alternatives for people with disabilities and implementation  
12 of *Olmstead* in all fifty states; and

13 WHEREAS, millions of dollars come into the state to help  
14 New Mexicans with disabilities, both young and old, through  
15 medicaid and medicare, vocational rehabilitation, housing,  
16 education and job training, in-home care and transportation  
17 programs; and

18 WHEREAS, these programs need vigilant attention by  
19 consumers, advocates and legislators to prevent fragmentation  
20 and lack of coordination, to preserve funding and  
21 accountability and to promote consumer choice and control in  
22 service delivery; and

23 WHEREAS, the legislature has supported disabled New  
24 Mexican citizens for a long time and continues to support them  
25 and encourage their involvement with the legislature and

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1 society;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 28,  
4 2002 be declared "Disability Awareness Day in the House of  
5 Representatives"; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature support  
7 disability programs, such as the personal care option and  
8 working disabled individual programs in medicaid, and that it  
9 direct agencies providing services to unite and coordinate  
10 their programs more effectively to provide timely, optimum and  
11 appropriate services that assist persons with disabilities to  
12 live and work independently in their own communities; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature support  
14 legislation that promotes freedom of choice as to who, what,  
15 when, where and how services are delivered and legislation  
16 that promotes consumer direction of such services; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
18 sent to each state agency that provides disability programs.